



The Harbinger

Newsletter of the
Illinois Native Plant Society

WINTER 2014
Vol. 31, No. 4

"...dedicated to the preservation, conservation, and study of native plants and vegetation in Illinois."



© Christopher David Benda

Happy New Year! The Illinois Native Plant Society had a great 2014, and we thank you for all you've done to support our mission. We look forward to another great year with you and the wonderful plants that occur in Illinois.

These photos were taken at Cedar Lake in Makanda, Illinois over Thanksgiving. Many beautiful nature scenes exist in our amazing state. For a selection of nature photos from 2014, please view my nature album. Details on page 4.

~Christopher David Benda, Editor

In this issue:

- President's message
- Carex Corner
- Best in Nature photo album
- Winter tree ID hikes

- Illinois Master Naturalist
- FPCC Natural and Cultural Resources Master Plan unveiling
- 2015 Wild Things conference
- Related plant articles
- Invasive Species Corner



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Message from the President-elect

I am very excited to move into my position as President of the Illinois Native Plant Society. I want to thank all those who have served on the INPS board, currently and in the past, for their dedicated efforts to make this organization what it is today. I want to particularly thank my predecessor Janine Catchpole for her excellent work advancing the mission of INPS and for teaching me the ropes.

There are some exciting plans in the works for INPS in the years to come. Our website (www.ill-inps.org) is running well, and we are looking into increased functionality. Our Facebook page (www.facebook.com/illinoisplants) continues to grow and we are up to 1500 likes. We would like to further promote our new listserv as a communication tool for sharing event information, plant questions, and general observations. The word is getting out that INPS is at the forefront of the latest news in conservation in Illinois and beyond. Along these lines, we are exploring the idea of expanding our publications to include a yearly magazine. Additionally, we are considering new chapters in several locations.

The Northeast chapter is our largest and fastest growing chapter, and they hosted an exceptional Annual Meeting in Manteno last August. The Central chapter continues to thrive as our most active chapter, but a close second is the Southern chapter. Both hold regular monthly events. The Forest Glen chapter will be hosting the next Annual Meeting in Champaign on June 5-7. The Quad Cities and Irene Cull (Peoria) chapters are currently experiencing a lull in programming, and I look forward to working with them in 2015. I will also be making the rounds in Illinois, giving programs about the incredible natural areas in Illinois and why to be involved with the Illinois Native Plant Society. Please contact me at botanizer@gmail.com if you would like me to give a program to your organization or at college near you. Wherever you are located in Illinois, 2015 is going to be a great year! As we enter the new year, please renew your memberships by mailing in the form at the end of the newsletter or at <http://www.ill-inps.org/index.php/membership/online-membership-form>. Thanks for being a part of the Illinois Native Plant Society!

~INPS President-elect Chris Benda

INPS CHAPTER LOCATIONS

NORTHEAST CHAPTER - Chicago

Diana Krug (President)

312-504-6473

northeast.inps@gmail.com

QUAD CITIES CHAPTER - Rock Island

Bo Dziadyk (President)

309-794-3436

qc_inps.home.mchsi.com

IRENE CULL CHAPTER - Peoria

Mary Hartley (President)

309-995-3356

haywool@winco.net

FOREST GLEN CHAPTER - Danville

Connie Cunningham (President)

217-516-1792

conniejcunningham@gmail.com

CENTRAL CHAPTER - Springfield

Annette Chinuge (President)

217-483-5893

annette@avrosystems.com

SOUTHERN CHAPTER - Carbondale

Chris Benda (President)

217-417-4145

southernillinoisplants@gmail.com



Carex Corner: The Fox Sedges and Panicked Sedges

By Lindeaus (Linda W. Curtis) lcurtisbotanist@ameritech.com

When I wrote about The Dreaded Ovals for the last issue of Harbinger, I received emails asking about the other dreaded sedges, the Fox Sedges and related Panicked Sedges. Some have the magic wand look similar to some Ovals with clusters or rows of spikelets at the end of a culm. Ovals culms tend to be more rounded or trigonous while Fox and Panicked sedges have sharper triangular culms.



Morphology differences are often minute as the Fox and Panicked sedges have stamens at the tips of their small spike, while Ovals have stamens in the scales near the base of their spikes. By the time the sacs are mature, the stamens are long gone, and only thread-thin filaments remain.



The most common Fox Sedge is *Carex vulpinoidea*, (brown fox sedge) named for its resemblance to *Carex vulpina*, (European fox sedge.) In England, our fox sedge is known as the American fox sedge. Yes, our brown fox sedge crossed the Atlantic, probably shipboard in hay for cattle. Its habitat is the same and grows along roadsides ditches where rainwater forms puddles, and most wetlands. The long head has over a hundred flattish ovate to ovoid sacs, each with a seed-like achene.

L-R: *Carex vulpinoidea*, seed head, sheath, and sacs.

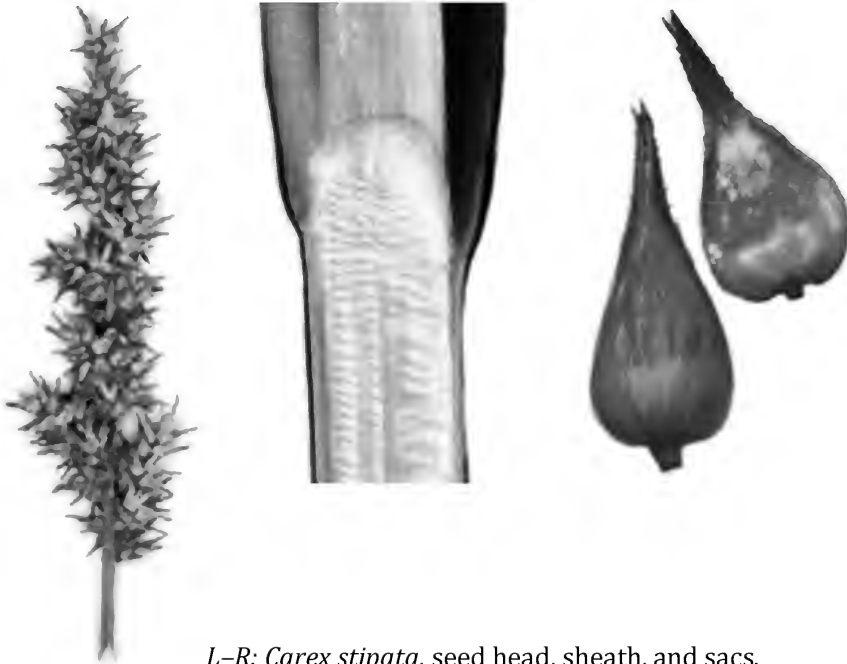
While *C. vulpinoidea* has one of the longest seed heads, usually 3-5 inches, the woodland *C. cephalophora* (short-headed sedge) has the shortest seed head, less than half an inch. Cephalo means "like a head" and Vulpin means "like a fox" presumably the tail. Both have firm wiry triangular culms.



L-R: *Carex cephalophora*, seed head, sheath, and sacs.

Carex Corner: The Fox Sedges and Panicled Sedges Continued...

A contrast in culms, the Panicled Sedges includes *C. stipata*, (common fox sedge), and has thick, soft pinchable culms that are more than triangular and winged on the three angles. Very few sedges have winged culms. This seed head is not a spicate, spike-like, but is a panicle. The lower side branches bear many small spikes that are barely discernable as a compound inflorescence. *Carex* are tricky, aren't they?



L-R: *Carex stipata*, seed head, sheath, and sacs.

C. stipata's sacs or perigynia are flattish, but are incurved on the inner face and plumper on the outer face, so are lanceoloid instead of flat lanceolate. In proportions, *C. stipata*'s sacs are 3:1 to 4:1 length to width while *C. vulpinoidea*'s and *C. cephalophora*'s sacs are 1:1 to 2:1 length to width. Once you CAN SEE the proportions, you can't NOT see them.

Size is an important when keying *Carex* species. *C. stipata*'s sacs are larger than *C. vulpinoidea* and *C. cephalophora*, a comparison of 4–6 mm long to 2–3 mm long.

Sheaths are important, first because grasses and *Carex* sedges seem similar and this distinguishes the two. Both have sheaths that surround the leaf attachment on their culms. Grasses have a split sheath while the *Carex* have a turtleneck or tube sheath. Ornate in some species, the tube sheaths of *C. stipata* have puckered fronts, *C. vulpinoidea* have cross-corrugate, and *C. cephalophora*, well, rather plain.

~Linda Curtis's humorous pseudonym Lindaeus, offers empathy for Linnaeus who first grouped the new worlds Carices. Lindaeus says, "The range of two similar species sac sizes will be the overlap size on any species you try to identify in the field." Linda Curtis is author of *Woodland Carex of the Upper Midwest*. www.curtistothethird.com



The Best of Illinois Nature 2014

Illinois Botanizer recently published a photo album of nature photos from across Illinois in 2014 on his facebook page. This album may be of great interest to our members. You can view the album at this link (you do not have to have a Facebook account to view the album).

<https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.1577697079112132.1073741847.1443386332543208&type=1>



SIUC Forestry and U of I Extension presents
Winter Tree ID Hike
 You don't know a tree 'til you see it naked



Learn how to
 identify trees
 without their
 leaves

Saturday, January 10 at 10am
Ray Fosse Park
 500 E. DeYoung St., Marion, IL
 Meet at the park sign

Hikes will be
 held outside,
 dress
 appropriately



This program is free, but registration is required, limit 20 persons. To register and for further questions, contact Sonja Lallemand, lalleman@illinois.edu, 618-687-1727.

University of Illinois, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Local Extension Councils Cooperating. University of Illinois Extension provides equal opportunities in programs and employment. If you need a reasonable accommodation to participate this program, please contact 618-687-1727.

SIUC Forestry and U of I Extension presents
Winter Tree ID Hike
 You don't know a tree 'til you see it naked



Learn how to
 identify trees
 without their
 leaves

Saturday, January 17 at 1pm
Riverside Park
 Commercial & South 24th St.
 Murphysboro, IL
 Meet at the park entrance

Hikes will be
 held outside,
 dress
 appropriately



This program is free, but registration is required, limit 20 persons. To register and for further questions, contact Sonja Lallemand, lalleman@illinois.edu, 618-687-1727.

University of Illinois, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Local Extension Councils Cooperating. University of Illinois Extension provides equal opportunities in programs and employment. If you need a reasonable accommodation to participate this program, please contact 618-687-1727.

ILLINOIS

Master Naturalist

WHAT IS THE MASTER NATURALIST PROGRAM?

The Southern Illinois Master Naturalist program is designed to educate and train a corps of volunteers to provide support in the conservation, management, and interpretation of the region's natural resources. The Program provides science-based educational opportunities that connect people with nature and help them become engaged environmental stewards.

The Master Naturalist program is a combination of education and service. With the help of local experts, University of Illinois Extension provides the educational support for the program, while the service is often done at one of the participating partner's locations. Each Master Naturalist participates in at least 40 hours of initial training. Once training is completed Master Naturalists are involved in many different projects to complete their 60 hours of volunteer internship.

This program is sponsored by University of Illinois Extension serving Franklin, Jackson, Perry, Randolph and Williamson counties.

WHEN IS THE TRAINING?

The classes meet weekly on Thursday at Giant City Park Visitor Center, Makanda IL. There are several Saturday field trips for hands on training. The training will be from February 19 to May 7, 2015



HOW DO I BECOME A MASTER NATURALIST?

Space is limited. Registration ends January 16, 2015. The fee covering Unit 26 sessions of classroom and field training, posters, handouts, and the Master Naturalist manual is \$250.00.

University of Illinois Extension offers practical, research based programs that help people improve their lives and address critical community issues such as youth, habitat, education, health and natural resources. Master Naturalist sponsors provide equal opportunity in programs and employment.

WHAT TOPICS ARE COVERED?

During the program participants will learn about many different aspects of the natural resources of the region. A combination of classroom instruction and hands on field work will be used to present information about:

- Archeology
- Aquatics
- Botany
- Birds
- Forests
- Soil/Geology
- Insects
- Mammals
- Outdoor Skills
- Prairies
- Reptiles/Amphibians
- Wetlands
- Climate/Weather

For more information contact

Sonja Lallemand

Phone: 618-687-1727

E-mail: lalleman@illinois.edu

Website

<http://web.extension.illinois.edu/fjprw/>



SAVE THE DATE

MARCH 20-22, 2015

ILLINOIS INDIGENOUS PLANTS SYMPOSIUM

John A Logan Center for
 BUSINESS & INDUSTRY, CARTERVILLE

DISCOVER SOUTHERN ILLINOIS NATURAL AREAS AND THEIR RARE SPECIES

KEYNOTE SPEAKER: JOHN SCHWEGMAN

MORE INFORMATION
 JANUARY 30, 2015

PHONE: 618.687.1727

<http://web.extension.illinois.edu/fjprw/>

The Prairie Research Institute at the University of Illinois has been working on the Forest Preserves of Cook County Natural and Cultural Resources Master Plan (NCRMP) this past year. The NCRMP will provide the foundation to achieve the goal set in the Next Century Conservation Plan of restoring 30,000 acres to high natural quality in 25 years. The first phase of this project has been completed and the public document part of the plan will be presented at the February 11, 2015 Centennial Board meeting.

The public is invited to one of four information sessions where the identification and prioritization process for the 30,000 acres will be shared before the NCRMP is made public. Maps identifying the 30,000 acres will be shared during the presentation along with some results of the prioritization. The four sessions will be:



Saturday, February 7; 9am-10:30am; Northwest
Hanover Township Senior Center (<http://goo.gl/maps/Yblui>)
240 S. Rt 59; Bartlett, IL
Just south of Bartlett Road



Saturday, February 7; 1pm - 2:30pm; North
Mathew Bieszczat Volunteer Resource Center (<http://g.co/maps/bjw9h>)
6100 N. Central Ave, Chicago, IL 60646 / 773-631-1790

South of Devon and Caldwell; North of Elston. Adjacent to Edgebrook Golf Course. Entrance is via double doors on front corner of large Tudor Cottage style building with circular drive and flagpole.

Sunday, February 8; 9am-10:30am; Southwest
Little Red Schoolhouse Nature Center (<http://g.co/maps/5eugh>)
9800 Willow Springs Rd, Willow Springs, IL 60480 / 708- 839-6897
West side of Willow Springs Rd (104th Ave), 1/2 mile south of 95th St.

Sunday, February 8; 1pm - 2:30pm; Southeast
Sand Ridge Nature Center (<http://g.co/maps/wtrcw>)
15890 Paxton Ave, South Holland, IL 60473 / 708-868-0606
On Paxton Ave two blocks north of 159th St.

Each session will consist of an identical 1-hour presentation by PRI staff, followed by a 30-minute question and answer session that may focus more on the region where the meeting is being held. If you can't attend the session near you, we encourage you to attend one of the other sessions.

****Volunteers and staff register to attend via the Online Volunteer System -**

<https://ec.volunteernow.com/recruiter/index.php?recruiterID=1405&class=OppDetails&oppGuid=DAA25CE8-DA94-4669-A0C2-0052A7D9D9D2>

*****All others should RSVP to Brittany.Baumer@cookcountyil.gov.**

Save the Date for Wild Things!

*A Chicago Wilderness Conference
for People and Nature*

Saturday, January 31, 2015
University of Illinois in Chicago

Stay tuned for registration details in November!

Keynote speaker Bill Kleiman, Steward of
Nachusa Grasslands, will discuss:

How the Bison Came Back

*Stewards and scientists restore human and
natural communities at Nachusa Grasslands*



A Chicago
Wilderness
Conference
for People &
Nature

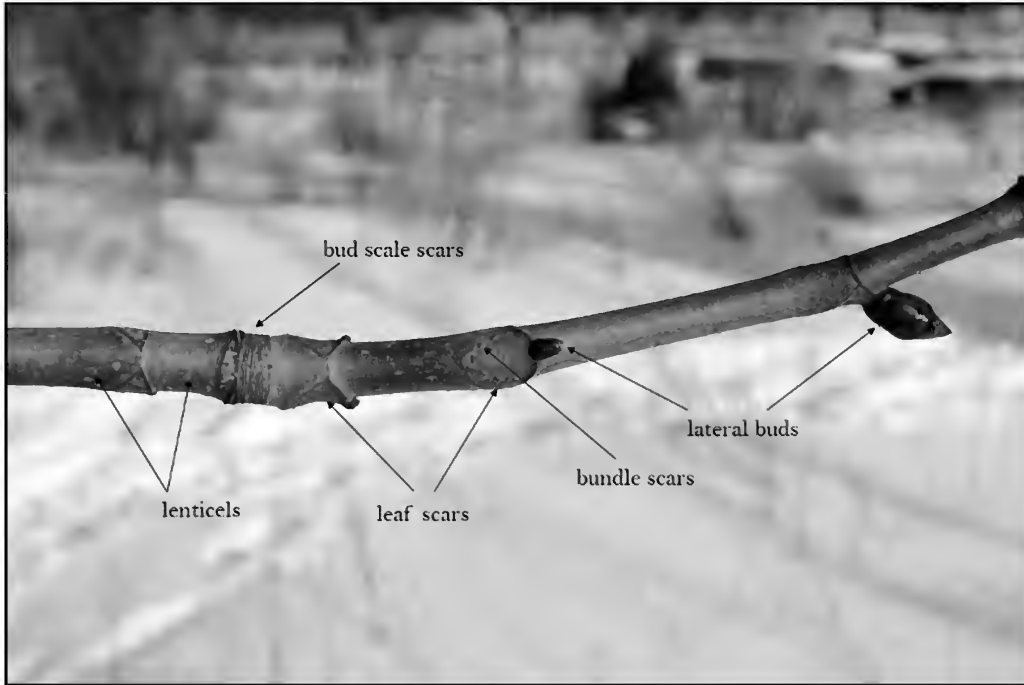
Register today at

<http://www.habitatproject.org/WildThings2015/>

Monarch butterflies could get federal protection

As their numbers and habitat shrink, monarch butterflies could get U.S. Endangered Species Act protection. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service said on Monday that a petition requesting federal protections for monarchs "presents substantial information indicating that listing may be warranted." Monarch populations have shrunk by almost 90 percent in the last 20 years.

<http://www.chicagotribune.com/lifestyles/pets/ct-pets-monarchs-1230-20141230-story.html>



Illinois Winter Tree Field Identification Guide

Follow this link to download a free pocket guide to Illinois Winter Tree Identification published by the Forest Preserves of Champaign County.

<http://ccfpd.org/NaturalResources/WinterTreeIDpocketguide.pdf>

The Next New Species Could be in Your Backyard: Why Exploration and Discovery Matter – Everywhere

"Exploration at Waukegan beach – just 40 miles from downtown Chicago – found two Linyphiid spider species new to the Great Lakes Region. About 10 miles west of Waukegan beach, surveys at McDonald Woods Forest Preserve uncovered a new grass species, two species of sedges (*Carex*), two spider species, and a moss new to the state of Illinois. The Bog Rosemary was also just reported in Illinois for the first time in nearly 100 years."

This article is by Gregory Mueller, chief scientist at the Chicago Botanic Garden, and it explains that new discoveries can be made everywhere, and not just in exotic and hard to reach places.

<http://voices.nationalgeographic.com/2014/12/17/the-next-new-species-could-be-in-your-backyard/>

Invasive Species Corner

Please look at the following resources for the latest in Invasive Species news.

- University of Illinois Extension has announced the dates for its 2015 Illinois First Detector Invasive Pest Workshops covering important landscape and nursery pests, diseases, and invasive plants. Workshops will be offered at eight locations in Illinois beginning in January 2015. <http://illinoisisam.blogspot.com/2014/12/2015-first-detector-training-workshop.html>
- Many of the presentations from the 2014 Upper Midwest Invasive Species Conference are now available online on the Midwest Invasive Plant Network's webpage. You can access the presentations at <http://mipn.org/UMISC-2014.html>

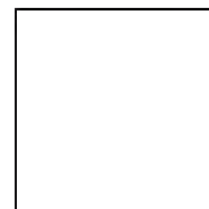


ILLINOIS NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

Forest Glen Preserve
20301 E. 900 North Road
Westville, IL 61883

illinoisplants@gmail.com

www.ill-inps.org



Dodecatheon frenchii –
French's Shooting Star

2014 Winter Harbinger – December 2014

Please consider renewing your membership as we approach the new year!
You can renew/join by filling out the form below or online at our website,
<http://www.ill-inps.org/index.php/membership/online-membership-form>

Please become a member and support this local non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation, conservation, and study of the native plants and vegetation of Illinois!!!



Join us!

- ☐ New member
- ☐ Renewal
- ☐ Address Change only

Mr./Mrs./Ms./Miss/Dr. _____
Street _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Phone Number _____ Membership Year _____
Email _____

☐ Check here if you *need* to receive newsletters by postal mail*

Membership Categories

- ☐ Student.....\$13.00
- ☐ Individual.....\$20.00
- ☐ Family (new category).....\$30.00
- ☐ Institutional (nonvoting).....\$20.00
- ☐ Supporting.....\$30.00
- ☐ Patron.....\$55.00
- ☐ Life.....\$300.00

Chapter Affiliation

- ☐ Central (Springfield)
- ☐ Forest Glen (Westville)
- ☐ Northeast (Chicago)
- ☐ Southern (Carbondale)
- ☐ Quad City (Rock Island)
- ☐ Irene Cull (Peoria)

PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO:
ILLINOIS NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY
Forest Glen Preserve
20301 E. 900 North Road
Westville, IL 61883



GO GREEN! If you are receiving a black and white newsletter by postal mail, please help us lower our costs by signing up for an electronic copy in color. Please send your email address to illinoisplants@gmail.com to be added to our email distribution list. Please "like" us on facebook at www.facebook.com/illinoisplants.